Board of India for dealing with, inter-alia investor protection.

D.A. to Government Employees

4241. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in prices during the period from January 1, 1991 to June 30, 1991 and the increase in the All India Consumer Price Index during this period;

(b) the percentage of Dearness Allowance payable to the Government employees as per the above index; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to pay the instalment of Dearness Allowance due from July 1, 1991 to the employees in cash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The percentage increase in wholesale price index during the period January 1, 1991 to June 30, 1991 is 4.8% approximately. The All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) for the month ending June, 1991 is 1030, as against 981 for the month ending December, 1990.

(b) The amount of Dearness Allowance payable to the Central Government employees is calculated in terms of the formula prescribed by the Fourth Central Pay Commission which takes into account the percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index over the Base figure of 608. According to it, employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- per month are allowed 100% neutralisation, those drawing between Rs. 3501 and Rs. 6000/- are allowed 75% and those drawing above Rs. 6000/- per month are allowed 65% neutralisation subject to marginal adjustments.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Expenditure on Newspapers

4242. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government on purchase of newspapers during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the offices of the Union Government and their attached offices functioning five days a week are subscribing the newspapers for all the seven days of a week;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to discontinue to purchase the newspapers on Saturdays and Sundays to effect economy in expenditure; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (d) As per provisions contained in the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India enjoy full powers to purchase non-official publications including books, newspapers, magazines and other periodicals according to their individual requirements. The expenditure on such items is not centrally maintained. Since the objective is to

keep officers and employees abreast with national and international developments on broad spectrum of issues like economic, political, social, cultural, administrative, etc. the question of discontinuance of newspapers on holidays would not arise.

[English]

Khusro Committee Recommendations for providing Loans to Agricultural Sector

4243. SHRI Z. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khusro Committee has recommended that agricultural sector should be provided with at least Rs. 50,000 crores loan facilities every year;

(b) if so, the average amount made available as loans to the farmers in the country by various financial institutions/banks, etc.; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Khusro Committee in respect of providing funds to agricultural sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Khusro Committee did not recommend that any specific amount should be provided for agricultural sector each year.

(b) As per available information, the average amounts of direct agricultural loans per borrower disbursed by the commercial banks (1988-89) was Rs. 6548, by the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies the same was Rs. 1732 and for Regional Rural Banks (1989-90), the same was Rs. 3499.

(c) Khusro Committee reviewed the working of the rural credit system in the country and made recommendations inter-alia for revitilisation and strengthening of cooperative credit system. Action has been initiated on the recommendations for preparation of Business Development Planning Programmes for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) all over the country, imparting training for preparation of Business Development Plans and for simplification of lending policies and procedures. State Governments have also been requested to initiate on recommendations relevant to them.

Development of Buckingham Canal as National Waterway

4244. SHRI Z. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Buckingham Canal connecting Vijayawada city and Madras city has been recognised as a National Waterway to be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this work during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far and the progress of the work; and

(d) the date by which the development work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.